

STATINTL

Bills Offered to Curb Foreign Lobbying

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Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) introduced a package of bills yesterday to tighten controls over foreign lobbying on Capitol Hill.

In placing the reform measures before the Senate, Fulbright complained that enforcement of the present Foreign Agent Registration Act "has lagged and compliance has been poor."

The slap was clearly aimed at the Justice Department, which enforces the foreign agent law.

Poor government policing of foreign lobbyists, said the Arkansas Democrat, stems from "a lack of awareness of the dangers which this law and its

amendments were intended to correct."

Fulbright said that most of the abuses uncovered during the year-long investigation by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee could have been avoided by strict enforcement of existing law.

Bills Co-Sponsored

The new lobbying measures are being sponsored by Fulbright and Sen. Bourke Hickenlooper (R-Iowa), ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Fulbright said the proposals do not meet the problem of labeled foreign propaganda appearing in newspapers, magazines and other communication media. Nor, he said, does it come to grips with the practice by foreign agents of dispensing free junkets and other favors to newsmen.

The Foreign Relations Committee investigation turned up specific cases of free red-carpet trips given to news executives by a public relations firm in exchange for favorable publicity on its foreign clients.

Fulbright said he expected to go into this question in a special hearing with news media witnesses. Implicit in the issue is the sensitive question of how far Congress can go toward regulating the practices of a free press.

Provisions in Bills

The measures introduced by Fulbright and Hickenlooper yesterday would:

- Prohibit contributions by foreign agents to U. S. political campaigns.
- Require lobbyists to furnish members and committees of Congress with their registration statements before testifying for a foreign client.

• Forbid foreign agents from holding full-time jobs with the U. S. Government and require a waiver from the Government department head when they hire consultants who also serve as foreign agents.

The Foreign Relations Committee investigation of individual lobbyists is expected to resume after the test ban treaty debate is completed in the Senate.